

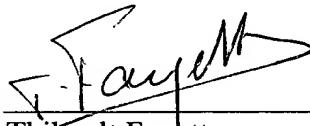
REMARKS

In the Office action dated October 9, 2001, the Examiner stated that "the inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.2 because... they lack the same or corresponding special technical features." Applicants have provisionally elected **Group II**: claims 31 and 33-38, in response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, but with traverse. The reason for traverse is: Per MPEP §803: "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it involves claims to distinct or independent inventions." Applicants kindly request reconsideration of whether or not the search and examination could be made without serious burden. If the burden is not so serious, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to retract the restriction requirement.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action on all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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